

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, July 15. 1712.

THE worst Prospect of the coming of the *Prætor*, that presents itself to my View, speaking of my own Thoughts, is this, that the ungovern'd Heat, and dreadful Divisions of honest Men, propagate his Interest equally with the secret Treason of his own Party.

We are now running on headlong into a Scene of Foreign Affairs, the Confederates into a *Separate War*, and *Britain* into a *Separate Peace*; no Man can ever say that I have spoken one Word for a *Separate Peace*, and God forbid I should join with those, who rejoyce in the View of a *Separate War*—I bewail the Miseries that attend my Native Country, and the Protestant Interest of *Europe* from them both.

To say it lies all upon those People who have made the *Separate Peace*, and that the other is but the Consequence, tho' I were to grant it all in the utmost Extent, yet I cannot say that it justifies the rest, because other Methods might yet be taken, notwithstanding the Peace, to prevent the Ruin that will follow; if the Confederates are infatuated, if they are blind to the General Interest of *Europe*, of all the Nations of *Europe*, we have the most Reason to be sorry for it, for whoever may save we are sure to be Ruin'd by it several Ways, and this I shall endeavour to make plain, for the Instruction of those, who in the abundance of their Ignorance, rejoyce in the Confederates carrying on the War without us—— I have

have never made any Pretence to Predictions, other than such as shew themselves to be apparent Consequences of visible Causes ; yet I have told you many Things which have afterwards come to pass ; and by the same Rule I take upon me to say, and as they are some of my LAST Words, *as to the Review*, you may Remark them if you please ; That if the *Dutch*, in the Emperor's Quarrel, *for it is all for his Account*, refuse the Peace, and carry on this War without the Queen of Great Britain's Concurrence, these Things will certainly follow.

1. Their pushing at *France*, will, of Necessity, push them upon Us, and push us into a *Dutch War* ; *God forbid I should desire it*, and none but the worst of Slanderers can suggest it of me ; I lament the Necessity, and look on it as our Judgment, but IT WILL, it must FOLLOW, all the World, *speaking of Probabilities*, cannot prevent it, *a War with Holland will be the Consequence*.
2. The Consequence of a War with *Holland* WILL be, (the Notion of a Neutrality for us is Ridiculous) it must be the RUIN of the *Protestant Succession*, and WILL bring in the Pretender upon us : From the Day that War is Proclaim'd, I shall give up the Hopes of the Protestant Succession ; for to fight with the *Dutch*, is in one Sense, as the Alliances Abroad are settled, to fight with the House of *Hanover*.

3. The coming in of the Pretender, WILL cause, IT MUST cause, a *Civil War amongst us*, and involve this Nation in Blood ; and I wish we stay so long before it begin.

Now let any Man tell me, whether, is the present Peace with all its Insufficiencies and *Claudefines*, all the *Adverbs* and *Adjectives* which we give it, *to be chosen*, or the Climax of Disasters above ? Suppose I like the Peace no better than the worst Malecontent of the Nation, yet I would close with it, rather than have a War with the *Dutch*—And let those that think themselves so wise, shew us a Reason, why they will rather push on a War with the *Dutch*, than close with the Peace ?

But, says one to me, what can you say for the Peace ? You have never told us your Opinion of the Peace, or what you have to say for, or against it — *It is true, I have not*, and many Reasons I have had for not shooting my Bolt yet, but I shall say a little to it here.

Our unhappy Condition is such, that these Things are now judg'd, not by the real Intrinsick State of the Thing, but according to the Party we speak to, and these Parties run into such mad Extremes both Ways, that whoever judges with Calmness and Impartiality, can please neither of them : A *Tory* meets a warm *Whig*, and asks him, *How do you like the Peace ?* Prethce don't tell me of the Peace, says the *Whig* to him, I like no Peace of your making, I look for no good out of your *Nazareth*, I'll never believe this

this Ministry will make any safe Peace, I look for nothing but the Pretender, I am satisfy'd that is all you drive at, I resolve to have nothing to say to you or your Peace either— Again, a Moderate Rational Whig, meets a *High-Flying Osseber-Club-Man*, and he says to him, *Well, Sir, you have seen the Queen's Speech, pray, how do you like the PEACE?* Like it, says the *Tory*! I like any Thing the Queen does, any Thing the Ministry does, I know they can do nothing amiss; besides, I like it because you do not like it, I care not what it is, so it be but a Peace, that you damn'd Whigs may be humbled; I am sure this Ministry cannot take a wrong Step, nor the Queen cannot make a bad Peace; I like it let it be what it will, because they do it.

How can any Man square his Understanding by these two; or any Way Agree with them? For my part, therefore, as I stand between both,

When the warm *hot Whig* asks me how I like the Peace, I say in few Words; *Better than you do.*

When the *Furious High-Flyer* asks me how I like the Peace, I say in few Words, *Not so well as you do.*

I shall *never say of the Peace*, that there are not some Things in it, which I wish were not, and some Things out, which I wish were in, much less that I like it for the Persons that make it, be they *Whigs* or *Tories*.

But I shall *never say of the Peace*, that, I think, the *Dutch* and all the Confederates had better come into

it, than carry on the War, and let the Consequences make it appear whose Judgment is rightest.

In the Offers of a Peace, it must be observ'd, that the War is carry'd on for *those Articles only*, which constitute the difference between the Demands and the Proposal: We do not fight for what is granted, but for what is refus'd; Thus, and often have I in former Days remark'd is, the French offer'd to cause King Philip to quit Spain and the Indies, for the Kingdoms of Naples and Sicily in Exchange: O had our Jerusalem known in that their day, the Things which belong'd to their Peace! but then, and ever since, they have been hidden from their Eyes; for ever since that, have all Europe fought up to the Knees in Blood, to preserve to an *Austrian TYRANNICAL Popish Race*, the paltry Kingdoms of Naples and Sicily; a blessed Purchase! Has it been worth the Blood and Treasure? Has it been an Equivalent to Europe's Peace? Has it been worth the Emperor's while, to snatch at that Shaddow and now loose the Substance? Wretched Politicks! What a Number of Parasite, Flattering, Time-serving, Pamphleteers back'd the preposterous Notions? How many Authors, knowing it pleas'd the Mob of that Day, spent their wise Judgments to tell us the Addition the Kingdoms of Naples and Sicily would be, to the Naval Power of France; and yet never, no, not one

one of them Examind the Geography of the Country, or shewed at what part of either Kingdom one Man of War could be laid up, VVinter'd and Rested: Or Examind their History, to tell us in what Age of the VVorld since Augustus Caesar, either of these Kingdoms ever had one Squadron of Men of VVar?

I look back with Thankfulness to that good Providence, which not only gave me a View of this in that Day, but gave me Courage to speak it in Print, in several of the Volumes of this Review, even when it was against the Notions of the People, and the Measures of the Government, to both whom I often Represented it, whether it was worth while to carry on such a Terrible War, for the single Question, Whether King Philip should have Naples and Sicily, or not a place to bury him in: See Rev. Vol. 6. N^o 75. 82, 116, &c. Yet I do not lay the blame of this on the late Ministry here neither; nor were they Principals in it: it was all *HIGH-DUTCH* every part of it, and let the EMPEROR with his *High-Dutch* Counsel at Vienna, look back and consider, whether he has not now Cause to Reproach the Wisdom of his Ancestors, and the Priest-Ridden Politicks on that Side, whether he had not by this Time been in the Peaceable Possession of Spain and the Indies, which promised Land he will now never set his Foot in? Whether he had not had a Hundred Thousand Faithful and Brave Subjects alive to fight for him, whose Blood has since run down in such a Foolish Dispute, as Water spilt upon the Ground, which can never be gather'd up: I am sure he has Cause to Curse his Mercurial General, and the obstinate Counsels of his Father's Court, who have thrown away for him the VVealthiest part of the VVorld, to save what, in Comparison, is not worth, as our Boys call it, *the fill of a Farthing*.

To return from this miserable and wretched Example, let us come to the present Peace, as bad as it is, and call it as bad as we please, and like it or not like it, as we will — And let us Curse those that

have made it as long as we will, but look forward, since it must be made, and we cannot avoid it; let us compare Circumstances and weigh the Difference.

Is it worse than a VVar with the Dutch?
Is it worse than the Pretender?
Is it worse than a Civil VVar?

Let us weigh the Differences, and I wish our Confederates, the Dutch, have weigh'd them.

The Difference in the Demands of the Dutch, is, as far as I see, nothing from what is offer'd in the Queen's Speech, but a very few Towns in the Barrier, and they have as much for a Barrier as they Demand'd formerly, and would then have been content with, and thought themselves safe in.

Now is the Possession of those Towns of so much Consequence, as to be worth while to continue the Flames of Europe, and carry on the War, which must double upon them, and at last Embroil them with us also? For I cannot go from it, that it will certainly be the Consequence of it; I wish they have well consider'd it. And after all, who knows, but on a Treaty, France might comply to enlarge that Barrier, and content them. Will they then carry on the Calamities of Europe, purely to give the Spanish Monarchy to a Hand, who formerly they themselves Agreed ought never to have it? That can never be.

Upon the whole, all the Blood to be spilt, all the Treasure to be wasted in a New War, and all the fatal Consequences attending it, are now put in the Balance against two or three Towns in Flanders. — Let Posterity be Judge of the Wisdom of it.

In the mean time, whether are we in Britain, a going? And what will it US, be the Effects of these Measures? I see nothing can prevent the Heads laid down above; let those that wish the Dutch to carry on the War, consider, and cast up the Gains, they will see a sad Balance at the Foot of the Account.